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**Senators Middleton & Garagiola
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland**

Dear Senators Middleton & Garagiola:

I am writing in response to your letter of November 27, 2007 to Secretary Colmers. I am encouraged by the fact that your first priority for the taskforce is to increase the bargaining power of physicians with insurers, i.e., leveling the playing field. A clear and unambiguous first step in that direction is your continued support for Senate Bill 749. Whatever consequences may occur as a result of prohibiting cram down must be weighed against the certain damage that a continued decline in physician reimbursement will cause. The future of healthcare in Maryland is indeed bleak if we cannot retain and attract highly qualified physicians due to inadequate and decreasing insurance reimbursement.

I look forward to working with you to address the issues you suggested for further Taskforce consideration.

Sincerely,



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